



## Course laying guide

# A GUIDE TO COURSE LAYING

### Preface

This has been written as a guide and is not meant as definitive. Each patch of woodland is different to the next and should be viewed with its layout and conditions in mind. Having said that the points set out below should help you lay a safe and interesting course in any woodland

### Steps to laying a course

Start with a map of your wood / shoot area and plan where you are going to place catering, admin, 1st Aid facilities, car park and camping (if you have room). Identify the entrance & exit routes.

Work out which way around your wood you are going to shoot.

Unless you decide to stop for lunch, try to plan your course to go through the catering point and toilets at least twice. The reasons for this are twofold, it makes for a more comfortable day if the Archer does not need to carry everything around with them all day (drinks/food etc) and also the more times you can get people through catering the more money you make for your club.

Walk around the woods looking out for interesting shots and mark them on your map (Dips, gullies, long tracks, buildings, banking etc). At this point the type & size of the target need not be decided.

Mark your course out on the map. At this planning stage you are now considering which target to use and the direction of the shot. Once the map is drafted, return to the woods with it to assess it.

Mark each end of the shot (Flags on canes are good & give a good visual guide) at your proposed target. At this point nothing is decided as to where the pegs or targets are going just a general area and direction. It is very difficult to visualise a shot without the target but the peg and target position can be adjusted at the next stage.

### Points to remember

- The shot must be hittable (Rule 26, page 13 - NFAS rule book).
- The red, white and blue peg can be in any order but normally the red peg is the most difficult and usually the longest shot. Remember: the White / Blue pegs are also shot by Juniors (White is 1st peg for 14—15 year olds and Blue is the 1st for 12—13 year olds) so bare that in mind.
- The yellow / orange peg needs to be in range to the lowest powered bows / age group and to avoid bounce back concerns.
- What happens if the arrow misses the target?
  - > Where will the arrow end up?
  - > Can the overshoot area be seen from the red peg?
- How do the group leave the shot? Try to avoid exiting the shot 'behind' the target as this is still the overshoot area.
- How do the group arrive at the next shot?

Now is the time to find the definitive shot. Place your chosen target and place your peg positions. This is preferably done with 2 or more people so that opinions and perception of the shot and the safety of the shot is considered. If you use a wasp peg, think how to make best use of it – perhaps to find a difficult window to challenge compound archers rather than simply consider distance for the shot. Check that you can see the target and there is sufficient room around the pegs for all bow styles, left/right handed people and people of all heights. Don't forget to look up but also look down. A rock or log low in front of the peg area can be a problem for those with longer bows (or shorter legs!)

From your target you now need to find a safe path to the next shot. You should know from your map roughly where your next target pegs will be, so aim for that point in as straight and clear a line as possible. Clearly mark the path with your chosen method. If you are using barrier tape consider using one colour / pattern for the path and another for hazards. It is important that the path leading to the next target does not walk Archers between the peg and the next target, otherwise there is a risk of one group walking into another groups shooting line.





# National Field Archery Society

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Once you have placed your first shot and have created your path to the next one, you now have other factors to consider in placing the next targets:

- > Overshoot from the previous target,
- > Overshoot to the following target,
- > Is your path in the safest possible place?

When setting 3D's or placing a shot around / in an obstruction (like a tree) bare in mind the possible distance of a ricochet from a powerful bow. They can travel a long way!

Do not fan the pegs in too wide of an angle (rule 28 page 14 NFAS rule book) keeping as straight a line as possible as this also reduces damage to arrows.

The rest of the course is a repeat of the previous stages. When the whole course is set, get other members to walk the whole course and makes notes of any issue that may become apparent. This may be the ease of finding the next target or over shoot concerns. Rectifications can then be made to the course.

Some clubs use a shoot check sheet to make sure everything is as safe as possible (CL001 Rev 2—is available in the club pack on NFAS web site). If there are any questions about the suitability of a shot then it is probably wrong and should be changed.

At this point break out the bows and shoot each target in turn with at least three groups of people. Follow each other so that each three targets in turn can be assessed from the target behind and the target in front. Wave and / or shout to each other so that you can assess the shooting line set. If there are any problems, you simply change them. If there are no problems, your course is ready to be shot by visiting Archers.

### Other considerations:

- If your wood has a public footpath (or one the public may use), clear warning signs shall be put out to ensure the public are warned of the dangers of entering this area.
- If your wood has a road running along an edge, make sure any target pointing towards it has either an adequate back stop or a long over shoot area.
- Remember where your car park is to be situated. When laying the course, those cars will not be there so it may be easy to forget they may be hit by an overshoot arrow.
- It is not advisable for an Archer who shoots one discipline only to lay a course without help from other styles. i.e. An AFB archer may consider trees and ditches as part of the challenge whereas a Compound Archer may set each target at a distance leaving no trajectory for less powered bows. Work together for a course to challenge all Archers.
- Course laying in the summer can be deceptive with high foliage. Make sure you can see that next target
- Catering has already been mentioned and consideration should be made to how far the target before catering is located. Good proximity will help with the flow.
- You may also want to consider which starting pegs would be most appropriate to those very competent and enthusiastic Archers who are less mobile through disability or illness. Thinking of this will reduce delays and receive appreciation from those concerned.
- There will be those competing who smoke. Make it clear where the smoking areas are so that there are no mistakes, arguments or fires!

